GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2736
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
DESTRUCTION OF MANGROVES
Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale destruction of mangroves is taking place in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a), (b) and (c) As per the State of Forest Report 2003, published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), the mangrove cover which was 4482 km2 in 2001, has reduced to 4461 km2 in 2003. There was increase in the mangrove areas during this period in West Bengal from 2081 sq. km. to 2120 sq. km., in Gujarat from 911 sq. km. to 960 sq. km., in Goa from 5 sq. km. to 10 sq. km., in Kerala from 0 sq. km to 8 sq. km. and in Tamil Nadu from 23 sq. km. to 35 sq. km. There has been reduction in the area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 789 sq. km. to 671 sq. km., in Andhra Pradesh from 333 sq. km. to 329 sq. km. and Orissa from 219 sq. km. to 207 sq. kms. It is primarily because of decrease of 118 sq. km. in Andaman and Nicobar Islands that net area has reduced by 21 sq. km. According to FSI this net decrease is not loss of mangrove cover but is an interpretational correction. Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 has been issued by Government for the purpose of protecting the coastal areas which inter alia also aims at conservation of mangroves. The said notification prohibits developmental activities in the mangrove areas other than those essential activities specified in the same notification. Besides, the Ministry also has a Scheme on Conservation and Management of mangroves.